

GEORGE MILLER

7TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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Exhibit 3: Project Letters

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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0507

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August 31, 2011

Doug Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94605

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing in strong support of the grant request from the City of Benicia Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Commission for the Benicia Waterfront Park Master Plan Project.

This project will improve, enhance and extend the current First Street Green Park with improved trail access, parking, public art, observation platforms, interpretive kiosks and seating areas. In addition, the project envisions restoration of the adjacent 5.7 acre marsh area. These improvements will transform the current First Street Green Park into a 10.5 acre Waterfront Park which will be a wonderful asset to the residents of Benicia and visitors. This grant will fund a draft Waterfront Park Master Plan, the first step in achieving this goal.

I am impressed with the City's initiative with this Master Plan, which will also address sea level rise. I urge your favorable consideration of this request.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



GEORGE MILLER
Member of Congress
7th District, California

cc: City of Benicia
Melanie Denninger, Project Specialist

Exhibit 3: Project Letters
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Linda J. Seifert
Solano County Board of Supervisors
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August 22, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94605

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am pleased to provide my support of the Benicia Waterfront Park Master Plan project.

The preparation of a Waterfront Park Master Plan would allow the City of Benicia to move forward on their efforts to improve, enhance, and expand the existing First Street Green Park into a vibrant 10.5 acres multi-use waterfront park that would include:

- The restoration of 5.7 acre marsh along the Carquinez Strait
- Improve trail access (joining the San Francisco Bay Trail from West to East)
- Provide for observation platforms and interpretive kiosks
- Installation of seating areas and public art
- Creation of an inviting entrance square adjacent to Benicia's main downtown street (corner of First and East B Streets)

The improvements that can be realized through the preparation of the Waterfront Park Master Plan will increase the limited public access to the Carquinez Strait and will help stimulate economic activity in downtown Benicia.

Solano County residents and visitors will benefit in the following ways:

- Restoration of the marsh area will contribute to improved air quality, improved flow of water through the Carquinez Strait; and improved wildlife habitat
- Improved opportunities for education about the history of the Carquinez Strait, the County of Solano, and habitat conservation and wildlife
- Improved access to the Bay Trail, marsh habitat, and view shed

Exhibit 3: Project Letters

In today's economy it is difficult for the City of Benicia or any city to have the resources to commission a park master plan. However, with a grant for the Coastal Conservancy, the City of Benicia can begin the process of crafting a waterfront park that befits its setting on the Carquinez Strait.

I urge your favorable consideration of the grant application for Benicia Waterfront Park Master Plan.

Sincerely,

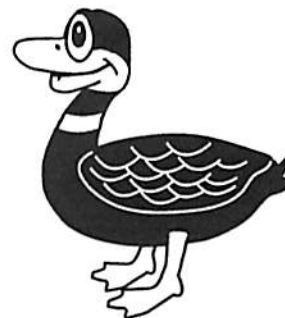


Linda J. Seifert
Supervisor, District 2

cc: Melanie Denninger, Project Specialist
 Mike Dodson, Director of Parks and Community Services

August 23, 2011

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Douglas Bosco. Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94605

Benicia Water Education Program

RE: Support for Benicia Waterfront Park

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing on behalf of the Benicia Water Education Program to support the City of Benicia through the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Commission, effort regarding the Benicia Waterfront Park Master Plan project. The Benicia Water Education Program is aware, this project is an effort to improve, enhance and extend the current First Street Green Park with improved trail access, parking, and the addition of public art, observation platforms, interpretive kiosks and seating areas; in addition the project envisions restoration of the adjacent 5.7 ace marsh area. All included, these improvements will transform the current First Street Green Park into a 10.5 acre waterfront park.

The Benicia Water Education Program sees a real value in enhancing this area. A developed water front park area would be a wonderful asset for Benicia's school children. Nearly 500 Benicia school children each year visit Benicia's marsh lands to learn the history of the area and the plant and animal life of this brackish tidal wetland. Currently, these students are going to the Benicia State Park for their wetlands field trips but as you know our State Park has once again been slated for closure. Having a park on the waterfront not in danger of closure would be a great benefit to the Benicia Water Education Program. It would be wonderful to have a developed waterfront park close to downtown schools that classes can walk to easily and learn about the habitats of our diverse riparian wildlife.

Please feel free to contact me at 707-980-1895 if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Susan Frost Alfeld
Benicia Water Education Program
614 East 5th Street
Benicia, CA 94510

Cc: Melanie Denninger, Project Specialist

Exhibit 3: Project Letters



Napa-Solano Audubon Society
PO Box 10006, Napa, CA 94581

August 19, 2011

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94605
Re: Grant Application for Benicia Waterfront Park

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing on behalf of Napa Solano Audubon Society in support of the funding request for Benicia Waterfront Park. Napa Solano Audubon is a Chapter of National Audubon and represents approximately 1000 members in Solano and Napa Counties. Many of our members live in or near Benicia and would find this new park especially valuable for their own recreational needs as well as for friends, relatives, visitors and others. Improved access to the marsh and adjacent trails would also enhance our monitoring capabilities for the Benicia Christmas Count, the Solano County Breeding Bird Atlas Survey and other shorebird monitoring programs. The Benicia marshlands support many bird species, more than 50 have been recently recorded in a visitors Waterfront log including Sora, Snipe, Pipit, Osprey, White & Brown Pelicans, Long-tailed duck, Barrow's Goldeneye and others. The Waterfront Park will provide the opportunity to introduce this rich habitat to the community.

This very special location, close to downtown yet right along the water offers great vistas, ready access through public transportation, and multiple educational and interpretive opportunities for the public at large. The Benicia library is nearby, where we (as well as other environmental groups) offer nature based educational programs. Benicia holds many annual events -- the July Art & Jazz Festival, Benicia in Bloom, Art in the Park, VIVA Benicia and other Main Street events which attract both local residents and visitors. These activities draw people close to the waterfront. This park will provide a prime opportunity for educating people about the value of our Bay marshlands and its natural inhabitants. We are looking forward to leading more frequent bird walks there and participating in some of these city sponsored events to help spark the community's interest in the marsh and shoreline, eventually leading to improved protection and management of the area.

A trail connecting this new Waterfront Park to other portions of the Bay Trail as well as the Benicia State Recreation Area (BSRA) will be a huge benefit to the residents of Benicia, adjacent communities and visitors from around the bay area. Our NSAS Chapter recently held its annual June picnic at BSRA and found it to be a beautiful, serene and scenic area.....but under utilized! Once there are connecting trails, many more people will have the opportunity to get out in nature, enjoy their exercise and learn more about the value of their baylands.

We hope that you will support this project by funding this grant proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Glover".

John Glover
Vice-President, Napa Solano Audubon Society
(707) 645-1638, john.glover@tu.edu

cc: Melanie Denninger, Project Specialist

www.napasolanoaudubon.com